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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative
Experiences with Privatization
First session
Geneva, 30 November 1992
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with the agreement reached among Governments at the first pre-sessional executive session of the Board, the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group shall consist of seven members (a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur), to be elected from among the core membership* in accordance with the following geographical distribution:

Lists A and C combined - 4

List B - 2

List D - 1.

There is also agreement among Governments that the Chairman of the Working Group will serve for the entire duration of the life of the Working Group. However, the other members of the Bureau will rotate according to the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Working Group will have available five working days from 30 November to 4 December 1992. Throughout this session, interpretation facilities will be available. At the first meeting on 30 November 1992, an opening statement will be made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative. The rest of the time of the Working Group will be primarily devoted to item 3 of the agenda.

Item 3: Establishment of the work programme of the Working Group

With a view to assisting the Working Group in establishing its work programme, the secretariat has prepared a note entitled "Issues for consideration in the establishment of the work programme" (TD/B/WG.3/2). The note covers the following topics: (i) definition and choice of objectives of privatization; (ii) factors pertinent to the design and implementation of privatization programmes; (iii) selected issues of privatization; and (iv) organization of work.

In order to expedite its work, the Working Group may wish to devote the first session not only to organizational but also to substantive matters. A preliminary discussion of the issues raised in document TD/B/WG.3/2 would help the Working Group in drawing up its work programme and setting its priorities.

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* In paragraph 77 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference specified that "... the core membership of these working groups will comprise all interested countries, which will nominate the relevant national experts. Other countries may participate in an observer capacity."

Attention is drawn to paragraph 11 of the terms of reference of the Working Group which states that: "the Working Group may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups".

Item 4: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group

Paragraph 13 of the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group states: "The frequency of sessions of the Working Group is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less."

A draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group will be submitted for consideration in the light of the decisions of the Working Group with respect to its work programme.

Item 5: Other business

Attention is also drawn to paragraph 7 of the terms of reference which specifies that: "In its work, the Working Group should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences." Paragraph 7 also refers to the participation of non-governmental actors. The Working Group is invited to consider the participation of such non-governmental actors in the work of the Group.

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Board

Paragraph 12 of the terms of reference of the Working Group states that the Working Group "may submit interim reports and shall submit a final report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board".